

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ID

SUBJECT: WORLD BANK'S 1977 INDONESIAN REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 59034; (B) JAKARTA 3574

1. PARA 2, REF A. WE WOULD SUGGEST USG OFFICIALS AT IGGI MEETING MIGHT PREFACE ANY DISCUSSION OF LESS FAVORABLE OIL EARNINGS FORECAST WITH BRIEF STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. OUR OWN EXAMINATION OF INDONESIA'S OIL SECTOR, BASED ON INFORMATION WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE RELIABLE, LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT CONTINUED GROWTH IN OIL EXPORT EARNINGS, AS PROJECTED IN IBRD REPORT, MAY NOT BE REALIZED. ON THE CONTRARY, THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF INDONESIA'S OIL RESERVES, THE PRESENTLY REDUCED LEVEL OF EXPLORATION ACTIVITY, THE PROJECTED INCREASE IN DOMESTIC OIL CONSUMPTION AND POSSIBLE MARKETING UNCERTAINTIES VIS-A-VIS U.S. AND JAPAN ARE, IN OUR VIEW, MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN A STABILIZATION OF OIL EXPORT EARNINGS OR EVEN A DECLINE IN THOSE EARNINGS WITHIN THE NEXT DECADE. SUCH AN EVENTUALITY WOULD HAVE FUNDAMENTAL AND FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR INDONESIA'S ECONOMY WHICH NEED TO BE SERIOUSLY ADDRESSED BY THE GOI AND ALL IGGI MEMBERS. FYI: THE GOI CONTINUES TO BE SENTISTIVE TO ISSUE OF OIL RESERVES AND REVENUES AND CON-
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CERNED GOI OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY MADE STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS TO SUPPORT THEIR EARLIER OPTIMISTIC FORECASTS ABOUT OIL RESERVES. THIS GOI SENSITIVITY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHENEVER IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY TO REFER TO OUR LESS OPTIMISTIC OIL SECTOR ASSESSMENTS. END FYI.

2. QUESTIONS POSED IN REF A REGARDING GOI'S RECOGNITION

OF AND POLICY RESPONSE TO PROSPECT OF DECLINING OIL PRODUCTION APPEARS TO ASSUME A DEGREE OF SOPHISTICATION IN ANALYSIS, PLANNING AND IMPLLMENTATION WHICH IN INDONESIAN SITUATION IS NOT FULLY REALISTIC. GOI'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR ENERGY RESOURCES, ACCORDING TO OIL AND GAS DIRECTOR WIJARSO, IS NOW AT LEAST SEIZED WITH THE PROBLEM AND IS STARTING TO DRAW UP PLANS WHICH APPEAR TO BE BASED ON MORE REALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING OIL AVAILABILITY BUT THESE PLANS THEMSELVES ARE STILL INCOMPLETE AND CERTAINLY A LONG WAY FROM APPROVAL LET ALONE IMPLEMENTATION. FORTUNATELY, THE FIVE-YEAR HIATUS IN MINING SECTOR INVESTMENT NOW APPEARS TO BE ENDING FOLLOWING THE PROMULGATION OF THE THIRD GENERATION MINING DECREES AND THE APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOI AND RIO TINTO. (SEE JAKARTA 3498) HOPEFULLY, THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL LEAD TO NEW INVESTMENTS TO EXPLOIT INDONESIA'S NON-OIL MINERAL RESOURCES BUT THE COINCIDENCE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH NEW REALISM WITH RESPECT TO THE OIL SECTOR APPEARS TO BE MORE FORTUITOUS THAN INTENTIONAL.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 5, REF A, WE BELIEVE WORLD BANK STATEMENT OF GOI INDUSTRIALIZATION POLICY GOES CONSIDERABLY BEYOND WHAT GOI ITSELF HAS ARTICULATED. AS AN EXAMPLE WE CITE A RECENTLY ISSUED 40-PAGE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY PUBLICATION TITLED "NATIONAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PATTERN," WHICH IS HEAVY ON GENERALITIES BUT LIGHT ON THE DETAILS OF HOW THE GOI INTENDS TO ACHIEVE INDUSTRIALIZATION. THE DOCUMENT TAKES STOCK OF THE ASSETS ON WHICH INDONESIAN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY IS TO BE BASED, AND ENUMERATES AT SOME LENGTH THE BENEFITS WHICH ARE EXPECTED FROM GREATER INDUSTRIALIZATION. THESE IN-

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CLUDE, INTER ALIA, SATISFACTION OF DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSING AND SERVICES; EMPLOYMENT CREATION; TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE; GEOGRAPHICAL DISPERSEMENT OF INDUSTRY AND HARMONIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND ENHANCEMENT OF DOMESTIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND OTHER CAPABILITIES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NOT CLEARLY DISCERNIBLE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OR REQUIREMENTS THAT CERTAIN INDUSTRIES OR SECTORS RECEIVE EMPHASIS OVER OTHERS.

4. THE NEAREST THING TO A PRIORITY RANKING IS THE GOI'S RECOGNITION OF "BASIC AND KEY INDUSTRIES," WHICH "UTILIZE NATURAL RESOURCES, ARE AIMED AT SATISFYING BOTH DOMESTIC AND EXPORT REQUIREMENTS, TEND TO BE CAPITAL INTENSIVE AND USE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY." THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE INDUSTRIES IS EXPECTED TO HAVE "MULTIPLE LEVERAGE IN STIMULATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER RELATED INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES SO THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF BECOMING THE MOBILIZING THE DISSEMINATING VEHICLE FOR DEVELOPMENT." HOWEVER, DESPITE THIS STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS, THERE IS NO

EVIDENCE THAT THESE INDUSTRIES ARE TO BE EMPHASIZED IN THE GOI'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. TO THE CONTRARY, THE LIST OF PRIORITIES (DSP) RECENTLY ISSUED BY BKPM (JAKARTA 3360) ACCORDS PRIORITY RATING TO A VARIETY OF INVESTMENT, BUT DOES NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE MANUFACTURE OF HAND TOOLS AND OF MACHINE TOOLS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE PRIORITY INVESTMENTS (I.E., ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ALL THE INVESTMENT INCENTIVES OFFERED). THE INCENTIVES TO INVEST IN A BILLION DOLLAR PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX OR AN INTEGRATED IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY ARE, ON PAPER AT LEAST, NO GREATER THAN A VENTURE IN RAISING DIARY CATTLE OR IN BREEDING POULTRY.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE "BASIC" INDUSTRIES, OTHERS MENTIONED PROMINENTLY IN THE PUBLICATION MENTIONED PARA 3 ABOVE, ARE IMPORT SUBSTITUTE, EXPORT EXPANDING (WHICH UPGRADE THROUGH INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING TRADITIONAL EXPORT COMMODITIES) AND HANDICRAFTS, BUT AGAIN, NO SPECIFICS REGARDING PRIORITY
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RANKINGS ARE INDICATED. PERHAPS THE MOST REVEALING COMMENT

IN THE DOCUMENT, UNDER THE HEADING OF PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, IS THAT THE "LONG TERM INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE IS EXPECTED TO LEAN MORE HEAVILY TOWARDS SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED INDUSTRIES, RATHER THAN TO LARGE INDUSTRIES." THERE IS NO EXPANSION OF THIS REMARK NOR ANY INDICATION WHETHER LARGE INDUSTRIES ARE ACTIVELY TO BE DOWNGRADED OR WHETHER IT IS FELT THEY WILL HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFULNESS AFTER A CERTAIN NUMBER OF YEARS.

6. WHEN ASKED RECENTLY BY THE AMBASSADOR IF THE GOI HAD DETERMINED SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WHICH IT WOULD LIKE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC MINISTER WIDJOJO REPLIED NEGATIVELY. HE SAID THE LISTING OF INVESTMENT PRIORITIES WAS PURPOSEFULLY ON THE BASIS OF MAJOR CATEGORIES SO AS TO LEAVE TO PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS THE DECISION ON PARTICULAR PROJECTS. THE EXCSPTION TO THIS POLICY, WIDJOJO SAID, WAS MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH AS FOUND IN PETROCHEMICAL FIELD.

7. COMMENT. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT LARGE PROJECTS WHICH INVOLVE PROCESSING OF RAW MATERIALS OR WHICH OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BACKWARD INTEGRATION ARE INDEED VERY WELCOME TO THE GOI. BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET PRODUCED AN INDUSTRIAL PLAN WHICH PROCEEDS FROM THE PRIMARY TO THE SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STAGES.

8. WITH REGARD TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SURPLUS FOR FY 1976/77, \$655 MILLION FIGURE BASED ON NOVEMBER ESTIMATE. MORE RECENT UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATE BY KUHN LOEB AND OTHERS PUTS SURPLUS

AT OVER \$800 MILLION.

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